



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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STEP-FATHER RECEIVES LIFE IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR CHILD'S DEATH

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that in Waco, John D. Mayer, Jr., of Ft. Hood, Texas, was sentenced to life in federal prison for the death of his step-daughter.

"Today is a sad day. While this baby's mother was serving this country in Iraq this defendant was committing the most despicable crimes imaginable. Mr. Mayer deserves every day of his life sentence for this unspeakable rape and murder," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On April 1, 2003, Mayer's wife, a soldier in the United States Army, deployed to Iraq and left her three children in the care of her husband, John Mayer, Jr. According to court records, on May 25, 2003, Mayer slammed his step-daughter's head against a linoleum floor at least twice because she would not hold her legs in the air while he changed her diaper. Mayer, a former Army medic knew that there was something wrong with the child because she became unresponsive. He told law enforcement officers he was afraid to seek medical attention for the child because of the bruises on the child's face that resulted from his abuse. He indicated to law enforcement that he searched the internet and looked at sites dealing with head injuries all of which indicated he should seek medical attention immediately for the child. Instead, he called his father in Louisiana and told him that he struck her head against the playpen. On his father's urging he took the three children to his father's home in Louisiana. His father immediately took the children to a hospital. A few days prior to the beating that resulted in the death of the young child, Mayer sexually abused the child and her minor sibling.

On February 16, 2005, Mayer entered a guilty plea to First Degree Murder on a Government Reservation and two counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse. Today, United States District Judge Walter Smith, Jr., sentenced Mayer to life imprisonment for First Degree Murder and 365 months imprisonment for Aggravated Sexual Abuse, all to run concurrent.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division and prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Frazier.

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